

### COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# **NEWS RELEASE**

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2006

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#### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

## FREE DENTAL CLINIC OFFERED IN SOLANA BEACH Dental Fluoride Provided Free to Children with No Dental Resources

WHO: 200+ children 1-18 years old expected

North County Dental Task Force

County Health and Human Services Agency's Dental Health Initiative

Southwestern College Dental Hygiene Program 30-40 volunteers, including dentists and hygienists

**WHAT:** A free dental fluoride varnish clinic for children 1-18 years old with no dental resources.

Volunteer dental professionals will apply fluoride varnish coating to children's teeth, a safe and painless way to help prevent cavities. Parents and children will be educated about dental health. Children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and

participate in games with prizes.

Funded by County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, and coordinated by the North County Dental Task Force, the County's Health and Human Services Agency

and Southwestern College Dental Hygiene Program.

**WHEN:** 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 28

**WHERE:** Solana Beach Library (next to Earl Warren Middle School)

157 Stevens Avenue Solana Beach, CA 92075

**WHY:** Tooth decay is the most common infectious disease among children. Over half of all

kindergartners and more than 7 out of 10 third graders have experienced tooth decay, with more than 25% going untreated. Fluoride varnish coating is incorporated in the enamel of developing teeth, making them more resistant to decay. Unfortunately, many children do not receive this or other dental services due to lack of insurance or

other affordable options.